

Miscellaneous.

RADCLIFFE OLD HALL.—This interesting relic of old English domestic architecture was taken down a number of years ago, to make room for a row of cottages for the workpeople of Mrs. Bealey and Sons, bleachers. It is understood that the Earl of Wilton, to whom the place belonged, sold the materials to the above parties, and rented the land to them, and so, in the spirit of modern improvement, the order was given, "Take it down, why cumbereth it the ground?" This venerable pile was highly interesting to all who loved to gaze on the relics of other days; and it was probably calculated to convey a more correct idea of the rude but strongly built habitations and festive halls of our forefathers than any other object to which the curious of this neighbourhood had access; and by them, no doubt, its destruction has been much regretted. Sir Walter Scott directed public attention to Haddon Hall, as a representative of the halls of the early Norman or latter Saxon chiefs; but the hall at Radcliffe must have been much older than Haddon Hall, as Sir Walter describes it. The materials at Radcliffe were chiefly beams and planks of solid black oak, which, together with the simplicity of the construction, and the rudeness of the workmanship, testified to the great age of the edifice. What a pity that it could not have been let alone, or rather that it was not deemed worth a little expense and trouble in covering it in once more; that it was not given as a shelter to some half-dozen poor families, on condition of their keeping it in perfect order; it would thus have endured for ages. The square tower, or fortified part of the ancient residence, still remains, but tottering with decay. The vaulted roof of the lower room almost hangs by a single stone; and unless it be protected from further wanton outrage, it must soon share the fate of the hall, and leave only its name in the remembrance of things that have been.—*Samuel Bamford's Walks in South Lancashire.*

SCOTT MONUMENT.—Sir Thomas Dick Lauder has received a subscription of twenty guineas from the Marquis of Bute. The Earl of Zetland has contributed twenty pounds to this truly national testimonial. The heads sculptured on the main capitals under the groined arch, now thrown open by the removal of the scaffolding, are likenesses of the principal Scotch poets. The following are finished:—On the north front—Queen Mary, James, I., James, V., and Drummond of Hawthornden. On the west front—Hogg, Burns, Ferguson and Ramsay. On the south front—Buchanan, Sir David Lindsay of the Mount, Tannahill, and Byron. On the east front—Smollett only is yet completed; but the other three—viz., Hume, Thomson, and Beattie—are in progress.

THE LATE DR. ARNOLD.—The *Literary Gazette* says, "Having been invited to see the monument about to be erected to the late Dr. Arnold, designed by Mr. J. Thomas, we have to notice a very pleasing return to mediæval forms, executed with great taste. Under a Gothic canopy, it represents the late eminent scholar, in academic costume, lying on his back, with his hands uplifted and folded together on his breast. The head rests on a massive volume. The likeness is grave and expressive; the drapery simple and well composed; the pinnacles, traceries, and other ornaments subordinate, and good in style. The whole effect does credit to the artist."

FINE ARTS.—The following extract from the report of her Majesty's Building Commissioners, which is so complimentary to our townsman, Mr. Rogers, will be read with interest in this locality:—"It is the opinion of the committee that among the carvers whose works have been exhibited, Mr. W. G. Rogers holds the first place; and they consider him as the person best qualified to be entrusted with those parts of the wood-work of the House of Lords in which great richness of effect and delicacy of execution are required. (Signed) Mahon, Colbourne, J. B. Macaulay, B. Harris, jun., George Vivian, Thomas Wyse.—*Dover Chronicle.*

The Pulteneytown Harbour Improvement Bill has passed the House of Commons. The estimated expense for completing the works amounts to 26,900*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*

THE IRON TRADE.—The quarterly meetings of ironmasters were held during the past week, as usual. During the last quarter the trade has been in a healthy state, the demand steady, and the prices for all descriptions of iron fair and remunerating. It was, however, expected that there might have been a downward tendency, the masters being less flush of orders than at the beginning of the quarter, and some forced sales having been made in Liverpool and London, at rates rather below the market price. Notwithstanding these circumstances, and although some slight indications of a fall were given at Wolverhampton on Wednesday, at the meeting in this town on Thursday, which is justly considered the most important, former quotations were fully maintained, and several considerable contracts for Staffordshire bars were entered into at 7*l.* per ton prompt, and other descriptions in proportion; for forged pigs some efforts were made for an advance. The number of railway bills passed during the present sessions, the steady demand for manufacturing purposes arising from the improved state of trade in general, together with the increasing application of iron as a material to purposes for which it had not previously been used, all concur to strengthen the conviction that the present fair price will remain steady during the current quarter. It mainly depends upon the ironmasters themselves to preserve the trade in its present satisfactory state; but if, on the one hand, by a hasty attempt to force up prices, the demand is suddenly checked; or on the other, by a rapid increase of works, or the bringing into operation too many of those which have been suspended, the market be overstocked, and a ruinous competition created, the present prospects of the trade may be effectually marred. Of the latter of these evils there are at present too many indications; and it is to be hoped that by timely caution the consequences may be averted.—*Birmingham Gazette.*

MAGDALEN COLLEGE, OXFORD.—The splendid tower of Magdalen College, that soars to the height of 150 feet, was last week struck by lightning, and one of the pinnacles much shattered, several large stones being hurled into the street. One of the servants of the college, who was passing at the time, had a miraculous escape, being struck down by one of the fragments, which fell on his umbrella and hat, but we are happy to state he was not materially injured. The staircase of the tower, also, is much injured by some of the stones that were forced into it. The same turret, we believe, was struck in a similar way eight years ago, on St. Swithin's day.

KING WILLIAM'S COLLEGE, ISLE OF MAN.—The restoration of King William's College is progressing rapidly. The workmen are now engaged upon the roof, and the chapel is also in a state of forwardness. The patrons and friends of the institution are sanguine that the annual meeting for the distribution of prizes, on the 4th of June, will be held within the walls of the renovated building. The edifice was insured for 2,000*l.*, but the estimate of the necessary repairs was 3,100*l.*; the trustees, however, calculate on a gross expenditure of 4,000*l.*, thus leaving a deficiency of 2,000*l.* to be provided for.

Mr. Baily, the Royal Academician, has just completed his model of the statue of his Royal Highness the late Duke of Sussex, which, when completed in marble, is to be placed in the large room at Freemasons' Hall. The statue is of colossal dimensions, being about double the size of life, and his Royal Highness is represented standing upright, in the action of addressing an assembly. He is habited in the robes of a knight of the Garter, and, in addition, wears the insignia of the Guelphic order. At the side is placed a small altar, on which the masonic emblems are figured.

A WINDMILL FOR SAWING.—The gable ends of cottages often exhibit a very primitive windmill for sawing wood within doors. It is a large wheel, to the spokes of which flappers are adjusted, made of coarse matting, and so placed as to profit by the ordinary sea breeze; and, while the wind is thus sawing his planks for him, the carpenter, at his door, carries on his craft.—*Blackwood.*

HUNGERFORD SUSPENSION BRIDGE.—One of the principal rivet chains has been completely awry across the river and secured to its arches.

MARKET WESTON, NEAR EAST HARTING.—It has long been a well-known fact, that metals will expand by heating, and contract in cooling; and this principle was most successfully applied on Monday week, and two previous days, in bringing upright the north side wall of Market Weston Church, which had declined full 18 inches from the perpendicular. The length of this wall was 64 feet, the height 24 feet, and 2 feet 9 inches in thickness. To accomplish this object, three iron bars, 36 feet long and 2 inches square, having powerful screws, of the workmanship of Mr. George Blomfield, Theltham, were passed from one side of the church to the other; enclosing these were sheet-iron troughs, containing ignited charcoal; which, after the bars were sufficiently heated, were removed, and the bars allowed to cool gradually. By this process, on their first contraction, the walls were brought in 5½ inches; on the second, 4½ inches, and on the third and fourth heatings, full 8 inches. The coming to of the inclined wall was very slow, but the result satisfactory, not even the surface being in the slightest degree defaced. The restoring of the church, which was in a very dilapidated state, was from plans and designs of L. N. Cottingham, Esq., London, under the immediate personal superintendence of Mr. John Reid, builder, Exworth. This novel experiment is said to have been the first successful one made in England, although Mr. Cottingham adopted this method in restoring the walls of Armagh Cathedral, Ireland, which were two feet out of the perpendicular. So much interest had been excited on the occasion, that during these days many of the neighbouring clergy and gentry with their families were present.

DISCOVERY OF AN ANCIENT ALTAR STONE AT BRANTINGHAM.—The old Roman Catholic altar stone has lately been found in the pavement of the parish church of Brantingham, in this riding. It is now removed (with the permission of R. F. Shawe, Esq., and Mr. J. Beaumont, under whose seats it partly was), and placed for the present within the communion rails. It is broken into two parts, but is very nearly perfect, and has on it the five crosses with which the altar stones were formerly marked. This stone is curious, as there are very few of them now left in our churches. They were forbidden by an express injunction of Edward VI.; and their removal was made an article of inquiry in the visitation of several bishops in the reigns of both Edward and Elizabeth.

A silver coin of the reign of the Emperor Trajan, in excellent preservation, was lately dug up at the Cherry Garden Farm, the residence of Mr. Ford, at Kilmerston, near Bath.

The Royal Naval School at Deptford is nearly built, at a stated cost of 16,000*l.*

Tenders.

TENDERS for building Wesleyan Chapel, &c., Landport, Portsea.—A. Frimen, Esq., Architect, Adam-street.

Abraham, Portsea	£2,453 0 0
Genett, Portsea	2,390 0 0
King, &c., Portsea	2,245 0 0
Hendey and Son, Portsea	2,264 0 0
Low, Guildford	2,165 0 0
Wells, &c., Portsea	2,150 12 0
Nicholson, Wandsworth	2,115 0 0

TENDERS for Works for Stabling and Residence adjoining the Plough Tavern, Shoreditch, for Mr. Thomas Harford Cox.—Mr. Thomas Ward, Surveyor, 95, Kingsland-road.

W. H. Little	£767 14 0
Little and Oakshott	700 0 0
T. Wythe	650 0 0
Hervey and Son	560 0 0
R. Briant	481 10 0
B. Chesterman	426 0 0

Opened in the presence of the several parties, and the lowest tender accepted.